

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ANKARA 0925Z 211541Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00
PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /062 W
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9936
INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
USMISSION USNATO
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USCINCEUR
USNMR SHAPE
USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES
USDOCOLANDSOUTHEAST IZMIR
AMCONSUL ADANA
AMCONSUL ISTANBUL
AMCONSUL IZMIR

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USEEC

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, TU
SUBJECT: GOVERNMENT CRISIS: JUSTICE PARTY MEETS TO DECIDE
NEXT STEP

REF: (A) ANKARA 9212 (DTG 201305Z DEC 77), (B) ANKARA 9215
(DTG 201330Z DEC 77)

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PAGE 02 ANKARA 0925Z 211541Z

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: IN A SERIES OF MEETINGS STARTING DECEMBER
20, JUSTICE PARTY OFFICERS AND PARLIAMENTARY REPRESENTATIVES
ARE GRAPPLING WITH THE CRITICAL DECISIONS REQUIRED BY THE
RESIGNATIONS FROM THEIR PARTY. THE MEETINGS ARE EXPECTED TO
LAST UNTIL MIDNIGHT DEC. 21. PRIMIN DEMIREL IS REPORTED TO HAVE
SAID THAT HE IS READY TO ASK FOR A VOTE OF CONFIDENCE AND
WILL RESIGN IF HE LOSES BY A SIMPLE MAJORITY (EVEN THOUGH THE

CONSTITUTION REQUIRES MAJORITY OF THE PLENARY TO BRING DOWN THE GOVERNMENT). JOURNALISTS AND OTHERS ARE OPENLY SPECULATING THAT ISTANBUL-BASED INDUSTRIALISTS HAVE HAD A HAND IN BRINGING ON THE CURRENT CRISIS IN THE JUSTICE PARTY. END SUMMARY

2. SOMETIMES-SENSATIONALIST HURRIYET REPORTS PRIMIN DEMIREL SAID DEC. 20 THAT THE TWO NEW RESIGNATIONS HAVE WEAKENED THE GOVERNMENT. HE REPORTEDLY ADDED, "WE WILL DISCUSS THE SITUATION WITH OUR PARTY MEMBERS, AND BASED ON THEIR ATTITUDES, EITHER ASK FOR A VOTE OF CONFIDENCE OR RESIGN IF WE DO NOT HAVE BACKING." DEMIREL ALSO REPORTEDLY SAID THAT ALTHOUGH THE CONSTITUTION REQUIRES 226 VOTES AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT FOR IT TO LOSE A VOTE OF CONFIDENCE, IF HIS GOVERNMENT CANNOT WIN A PLURALITY, IT WILL RESIGN.

3. APPARENTLY FOLLOWING UP ON THIS PLEDGE, THE JUSTICE PARTY (JP) EXECUTIVE BOARD REPORTEDLY MET FOR FIVE AND ONE-HALF HOURS ON DEC. 20 TO DISCUSS THE EFFECTS OF RECENT RESIGNATIONS FROM THE PARTY. AFTER THE MEETING, PARTY SPOKESMAN NURI BAYAR REPORTEDLY TOLD REPORTERS THAT THE EXECUTIVE BOARD DISCUSSED RECENT DEVELOPMENTS AND DECIDED TO CALL A MEETING OF ALL JP MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT DEC. 21 TO SOLICIT THEIR VIEWS, AFTER WHICH THE EXECUTIVE BOARD WILL AGAIN CONVENE TO MAKE A DECISION. BAYAR DENIED THAT THE EXECUTIVE BOARD HAD MADE ANY DECISION DURING ITS DEC. 20 MEETING. A JP OFFICIAL TOLD USIS THAT THE DEC. 21 MEETINGS PROBABLY WOULD CONTINUE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 ANKARA 09252 211541Z

UNTIL MIDNIGHT.

4. ALL DEC. 21 PAPERS HEADLINED THE TWO NEW RESIGNATIONS (REFTELS). THE TWO DEPUTIES JOINTLY DECLARED THEIR SOLIDARITY WITH THOSE WHO HAD RESIGNED EARLIER AND ASSOCIATED THEMSELVES WITH THEIR STATEMENT ISSUED ON DEC. 18. SEVERAL PAPERS DEC. 21 REPORT RUMORS THAT MORE RESIGNATIONS ARE EXPECTED AND THAT A FORMER REPUBLICAN RELIANCE PARTY (RR) DEPUTY IS CONSIDERING A SHIFT FROM THE JP BACK TO THE RR.

5. THERE HAS BEEN SOME SPECULATION IN THE PRESS THAT ISTANBUL INDUSTRIALISTS HAVE PLAYED A ROLE IN PRECIPITATING THE DEFECTIONS FROM THE JP. THIS SPECULATION HAS BEEN GIVEN A BOOST BY A SUDDEN, UNANNOUNCED VISIT TO ISTANBUL BY REPUBLICAN PEOPLE'S PARTY CHAIRMAN BULENT ECEVIT DEC. 20. ECEVIT REPORTEDLY SAID THAT THE PURPOSE OF HIS TRIP WAS "TO MAKE CONTACT WITH JP DEFECTORS." IN A PERHAPS RELATED DEVELOPMENT, AT MIDDAY ON DEC. 21 ANKARA RADIO REPORTED THAT DEPRIMIN AND NATIONALIST ACTION PARTY (NAP) CHAIRMAN ALPARSLAN TURKES HAD FLOWN TO ISTANBUL TO "DISCUSS THE RESULTS OF THE LOCAL ELECTIONS WITH THE LOCAL ORGANIZATION OF THE NAP." SPIERS

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